Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (previously presented): A method of determining the flux of a gas "X" in a subject that is ventilated or breathing spontaneously, comprising the steps of:

a. providing to the subject, via a Conditional Breathing Circuit (CBC), a source gas and a second gas that has substantially the same concentration of gas "X" as in the alveoli of the lung, wherein the source gas for a given breath is provided at a flow rate (SGF) that results in the source gas entering the CBC being equal to or less than the subject's alveolar ventilation, any balance of the gas provided for the same breath being the second gas;

b. determining the flux of gas "X" by:

(i) determining the source gas flow (SGF) into the CBC;

(ii) determining the concentration, F_{SX}, of gas "X" in the source gas flow;

(iii) determining the concentration, F_{EX}, of gas "X" in the end expired gas; and

(iv) processing data utilizing the relationship:

Flux of gas "X" = SGF (F_{SX}-F_{EX}); or

Flux of gas "X" = SGF (F_{EX}-F_{SX}).

wherein:

SGF = the rate of source gas flow into the CBC in liters/minute;

F_{SX} = Fractional concentration of gas "X" in the source gas;

F_{EX} = Fractional concentration of gas "X" in the end expired gas.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the second gas is gas expired by the subject in the preceding breath.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The method of claim 2, wherein values for SGF, F_{SX} and F_{EX} are determined by a device comprising a gas flow meter and a tidal gas analyzer and wherein the data is processed by a processor operatively associated with the device.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the Conditional Breathing Circuit is Magill circuit.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the Conditional Breathing Circuit is a-rebreathing circuit.

Claim 6 (previously presented: The method of claim 1, wherein the CBC circuit is a non-rebreathing circuit.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The method of claim 2 used to determine oxygen consumption.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The method of claim 2 used to determine oxygen consumption in an operating room setting.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 2 or 8 used to optimize oxygen consumption.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 2 or 8 utilized as an early indication of malignant hyperthermia.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein gas "X" is any gas other than carbon dioxide and wherein the Conditional Breathing Circuit (CBC) comprises a carbon dioxide absorber

and wherein the term F_{EX} in the equation Flux of gas "X" = SGF (F_{SX}-F_{EX}) is replace by the term F_{RBX}

where F_{RBX} = Concentration of gas X in the expired limb of circuit before the gas passes through the carbon dioxide absorber and mixes with gas coming from the flow meter.

Claim 12 (cancelled):

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 11 used to determine how much anesthetic is being absorbed by the patient.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 13 wherein said anesthetic is N_2O.

Claim 15 (cancelled):

Claim 16 (cancelled):

Claim 17 (cancelled):

Claim 18 (cancelled):

Claim 19 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, 2, or 11, wherein said method is incorporated in an algorithm spreadsheet, formula or the like contained within software which is capable of running on a computing device, or is installed therein.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the gas "X" is carbon dioxide and the CBC is a re-breathing circuit.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The method of claim 11, wherein the gas "X" is an anesthetic and the CBC is a re-breathing circuit.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The method of claim 21, wherein the anesthetic is:

i) N_2O;

ii) sevoflurane;

iii) isoflurane;

iv) halothane;

v) desflurame.

Claim ~~24~~ 23 (currently amended)(cancelled):

Claim ~~25~~ 24 (currently amended): An apparatus configured for use with a Conditional Breathing Circuit (CBC) for determining the flux of a gas "X" in a subject that is ventilated or breathing spontaneously, comprising:

c. at least one gas analyzer;

d. a gas flow meter for determining the rate of flow of a source gas;

e. a processor programmed for:

(i) determining the source gas flow (SGF) into the CBC;

(ii) determining the concentration, F_{SX}, of gas "X" in the source gas flow;

(iii) determining the concentration, F_{EX}, of gas "X" in the expired gas; and

(iv) processing data utilizing the relationship:
Flux of gas "X" = SGF (F_{SX}-F_{EX}); or
Flux of gas "X" = SGF (F_{EX}-F_{SX});

wherein:

SGF = the rate of source gas flow into the CBC in liters/minute;

F_{SX} = Fractional concentration of gas "X" in the source gas;

F_{EX} = Fractional concentration of gas "X" in the end expired gas.

Claim ~~26~~ 25 (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 24 ~~25~~ in the form of an anesthetic machine wherein gas "X" is an anesthetic gas and wherein the CBC includes a carbon dioxide absorber and wherein the processor is configured to determine consumption of the anesthetic gas using the relationship Flux of gas "X" = SGF (F_{SX}- F_{EX}) by determining F_{RBX} and by replacing the term F_{EX} in the equation Flux of gas "X" = SGF (F_{SX}-F_{EX}) by the term F_{RBX};

where F_{RBX} = Concentration of gas X in the expired limb of circuit before the gas passes through the carbon dioxide absorber and mixes with gas coming from the flow meter.

Claim ~~27~~ 26 (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 24 ~~25~~ further comprising a CBC.

Claim ~~28~~ 27 (currently amended): The use of a conditional breathing circuit (CBC) for determining the flux of a gas "X" in a subject that is ventilated or breathing spontaneously, comprising the steps of:

a. analyzing the concentration of gas "X" in the end tidal gas;
b. controlling the rate of flow of a source gas;
c. determining the concentration, F_{SX}, of gas "X" in the source gas flow;
d. processing data utilizing the relationship:

Flux of gas "X" = SGF (F_{SX}-F_{EX});

Flux of gas "X" = SGF (F_{EX}-F_{SX})

wherein:

SGF = the rate of source gas flow into the CBC in liters/minute;

F_{SX} = Fractional concentration of gas "X" in the source gas;

F_{EX} = Fractional concentration of gas "X" in the end expired gas.

Claim ~~29~~ 28 (currently amended): A processor programmed for receiving source gas flow rate data and gas concentration data generated by a gas analyzer, and programmed for:

(v) determining the source gas flow (SGF) into a CBC;

(vi) determining the concentration, F_{SX}, of gas "X" in the source gas flow;

(vii) determining the concentration, F_{EX}, of gas "X" in the expired gas; and

(viii) processing data utilizing the relationship:

Flux of gas "X" = SGF (F_{SX}-F_{EX}); or

Flux of gas "X" = SGF (F_{EX}-F_{SX});

wherein:

SGF = the rate of source gas flow into the CBC in liters/minute;

F_{SX} = Fractional concentration of gas "X" in the source gas;

F_{EX} = Fractional concentration of gas "X" in the end expired gas.

Claim ~~30~~ 29 (currently amended): The use according to claim 27 ~~28~~, wherein gas "X" is an anesthetic gas and wherein the CBC includes a carbon dioxide absorber and wherein the data is processed to determine consumption of the anesthetic gas using the relationship: Flux of gas "X" = SGF (F_{SX}- F_{EX}) by determining F_{RBX} and by replacing the term F_{EX} in the equation Flux of gas "X" = SGF (F_{SX}-F_{EX}) by the term F_{RBX};

where F_{RBX} = Concentration of gas X in the expired limb of circuit before the gas passes through the carbon dioxide absorber and mixes with gas coming from the flow meter.

Claim ~~31~~ 30 (currently amended): A processor according to claim 28 ~~29~~, wherein gas "X" is an anesthetic gas and wherein the CBC includes a carbon dioxide absorber and wherein the data is processed to determine consumption of the anesthetic gas using the relationship: Flux of gas "X" = SGF (F_{SX}- F_{EX}) by determining F_{RBX} and by replacing the term F_{EX} in the equation Flux of gas "X" = SGF (F_{SX}-F_{EX}) by the term F_{RBX};

where F_{RBX} = Concentration of gas X in the expired limb of circuit before the gas passes through the carbon dioxide absorber and mixes with gas coming from the flow meter.